

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2927 without my signature.

An open and accessible government is critical to instill confidence in the governed. Indeed the people recently voted overwhelmingly to amend California's Constitution to make access to public records a fundamental right. That is why I issued Executive Order S-03-06 which directs all state departments to post PRA request guidelines in a conspicuous public place at all office locations and to identify and designate staff to handle the requests and ensure appropriate training in PRA compliance for designated staff members. As a result of the order, all executive branch agencies have reviewed their public records procedures.

They have been revamped to improve performance and compliance and extensive training has been provided to state agency staff. These efforts address the problem this bill is attempting to fix.

In addition the provision allowing the Attorney General to review denials of public records requests is unduly burdensome. The Attorney General is the attorney for most State agencies and advises agencies on responding to such requests and thus this bill creates an inherent conflict of interest.

I will continue to require the highest standards of compliance with the Public Records Act throughout the executive branch.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger